

Indian Opinion

No. 24—Vol. XXVIII.

Friday, June 13th, 1930.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper
Price Fourpence.

NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS EXTENDS WELCOME TO SIR K. V. REDDI

SIR KURMA REDDI, the Agent of the Government of India, was the guest of the Natal Indian Congress at a public reception that was held at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall on Thursday evening. The Hall was packed to its fullest capacity, over two hundred people standing, and every available seat was occupied. The reception was presided over by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, the President of the Natal Indian Congress, and on the platform were the Mayor and Mayoress, Dr. and Mrs. Loram, Senator Brisker, Messrs. Harold Wodson, M. S. Randeree, Ismail Bobat, Fleming Johnstone, V. S. C. Pather, Advocate Albert Christopher, Rev. Henry Cotton, Messrs. W. Wanless, A. I. Kajee and P. R. Pather. There was a representative gathering in the Hall, prominent amongst whom were Messrs. V. Lawrence, M. A. Motala, R. B. Chetty, J. Rustomjee, A. H. Kazi, M. M. Lokhat and S. R. Naidoo. Sir Kurma was accompanied by his two sons.

Mr. Rustomjee rising to speak said:—

A little over six months ago we met at the Durban Wharf wishing our distinguished guest Sir Kurma Reddi, bon voyage. You are no doubt aware that when the genial Agent of the Government of India left these shores he was in indifferent health. He had been carrying on the onerous duties of the Agency under this severe handicap with a cheerful heart, and it was only on medical advice that he had to leave us on a recuperative leave.

To-day, on your behalf it gives me pleasure to extend to Sir Kurma a hearty welcome back to Natal. We are happy to learn that a few months' stay in India has improved his health considerably and we sincerely hope that before long our South African air will completely restore his health.

Sir Kurma has arrived at a moment when the South African Indian community needed his help, for, the Transvaal Indians were being faced with the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill which is at once destructive in nature. You will remember that during the absence of Sir Kurma in India the Government of India sent out Mr. J. D. Tyson who, in his capacity as the Acting Agent submitted a formidable statement to the Select Committee. Despite this statement in which Mr. Tyson appealed for justice and fairplay, the Select Committee without giving the slightest heed to the Indian case, recommended some drastic measures against the Indian traders. The provisions of the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill seek to create ghettos for the

Indians in the Transvaal, and the Bill is undoubtedly a revival of the Segregation policy of the Government as was contained in the Areas Reservation Bill of 1925. That the Select Committee was desperate was at once noticed in its recommendation that the Bill should be passed in the Session that has just prorogued. It was a difficult task that was set to Sir Kurma. Before he had actually touched Lorenzo Marques, the Minister had already gazetted the Bill and the first reading had already taken place. It was indeed difficult to get the passage of the Bill postponed, but we are happy to learn that Sir Kurma has been able to secure the postponement of the Bill.

It is just over eighteen months ago that Sir Kurma assumed the duties of the Agent, and within that period the Indian community of South Africa have come to love him. His services on our behalf have been immense and we are profoundly grateful to him. There is no doubt that troublous times are ahead of us, but I am confident that with his consummate statesmanship, Sir Kurma will be able to steer our vessel clear off the breakers.

I am also happy to extend a welcome to Mr. V. G. Kurma, who has come out with his illustrious father as his private secretary. I am sure that he will not find himself in a strange country, but that he will find his countrymen extending him the hand of fellowship.

Let us hope that during his stay in South Africa Sir Kurma will be endowed with health and that his stay will be a pleasant one.

At the conclusion of his speech the President garlanded Sir Kurma and presented a beautiful bouquet to the Mayoress. The Mayor and Mr. V. G. Kurma were also presented with bouquets. The chairman was followed by the Mayor, who made a witty speech, Advocate Albert Christopher, Mr. Harold Wodson, the Editor of the *Natal Advertiser*, and Senator S. S. Brisker.

Sir Kurma who was well received thanked the chairman for the very kind sentiments expressed and dwelt at length on the unfortunate position the Transvaal Indians will find themselves in were the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill to become law.

We shall give a full report of the speeches in our next issue.

A HUGE JOKE

THE first instalment of the Simon Commission Report has been published. The second instalment is due to be published in few days time. The first instalment was sufficient to raise the wrath of the millions in India. It would be as well, therefore, for the Imperial Government to refrain from publishing the second instalment. The Report brings to our mind some of the silent pictures we have seen at the Cinemas. Before one has seen a hundred feet of the film one is always able to guess most accurately the conclusion of the story. That is what has happened in the Simon Commission Report. Now that we have read the first instalment we should be able to guess what Sir John Simon has in store for India in his second instalment. But in his first instalment Sir John has entertained us with a huge joke. He mentions, apparently for the edification of his countrymen in Great Britain, that Mahatma Gandhi does not stand alone. Surely the Imperial Government could have saved India the enormous expense of a Commission just to ascertain this truth. The 1921 non-co-operation movement provided evidence in abundance that the Mahatma wielded an enormous influence and that he was the one person in the whole of India, who could move the masses to action. Presumably the Imperial Government could not avoid the periodical happy jaunts to India, so long as the Indian Treasury is able to foot the bill. It was a splendid holiday for the members of the Simon Commission and the piece of gratitude that the Indian peoples have received from them is the report just submitted. It is the same old story; caste prejudices and Hindu-Muslim disunity. The Commissioners could have easily left this part of the story to Miss Catherine Mayo. They were charged with a specific duty. That duty was not performed. The Report provides us with ample evidence that the Commissioners were more concerned about caste prejudices and Hindu-Muslim disunity than they were about the fitness of India to receive Dominion status. Could any person therefore blame the Indian Nation for boycotting the Simon Commission?

Full Dominion status is India's claim.

Simon Report

First Section Issued

London, Monday.—The suggestion that India, if given complete Dominion status, would be entirely unable to defend herself from invasion or maintain internal order, is the only direction in which the first section of the Simon Report, published to-day, definitely lets the cat out of the bag. The report gives a political and social survey of India, the Commission's recommendations being reserved for another volume, to be published on June 24. It may be recalled that the commission was appointed under the Government of India Act (1919) which gave India a form of constitutional government which is intended to lead by stages to full responsible government. The Act stipulated that a Commission should report progress every ten years.

Pace Of Development

The first section of the report is most reserved, the only straws showing which way the wind will blow being the emphasis laid on the "pace" of Indian development, the present illiteracy and the small amount of educated political opinion.

The report concludes with a sentence which will be a shock to Fleet Street extremists, who insist on calling Gandhi's followers isolated agitators. It reads almost like a knell: "All alike are in sympathy with the demand for equal status with Europeans, and proclaim their belief in self-determination for India. This attitude is largely dictated by self-respect. It is more than a personal feeling. It is the claim of the East for recognition of status. It is usual to date this demand from the defeat of Russia by Japan. There is no doubt that it had profound repercussions, but the events of the last two decades have accelerated the movement."

Small Proportion Of Literates

On the other hand, the report makes clear the definite political consciousness enjoyed by the extremely limited number of educated people, who, through being able to read, enjoy enormous power over the masses, of which only seventeen men in a hundred are literate.

The quality of the Indian masses is shown by the fact that out of three hundred and twenty millions counted in the last census, ninety per cent. were living in the districts in which they were born, and another eight per cent. were living in contiguous districts.

The report asks: How can men of such limited experience understand the implications of overseas trade, tariffs and frontiers, or the basic problem of the variety of India itself?

The report adds: "The idea that the course of government can be controlled by his political opinions is wholly foreign to the Indian ryot."

Clash Of Castes

Dealing with the pace at which Indian political feeling advances, the report points out that the educated seize avidly on theories and phrases of political science preached in Europe and America, but forget the long process of history and the break-down of class divisions behind Western democracy. On the other hand, the clash of castes is being intensified among the masses themselves.

The Commission tackles the problem of the army in India with unusual boldness. It states that no other section of the British Empire is so definitely and permanently threatened with invasion as India. On an average, once annually since 1850 the army has had to make an expedition against border tribes occupying a vast territory not subject to the League of Nations. Elsewhere in the Empire the

g soldier is only of theoretical support to the policeman, whereas in India no police force could deal with a sudden outburst of religious frenzy, and the use of troops to maintain internal order is increasing rather than diminishing.

British Soldiers Needed

The use of British soldiers, the report says, is a necessity, as they cannot be suspected of favouring either the Moslems or Hindus. The races which provide the best Sipoys, it is stated, are emphatically not those with the greatest accomplishments of mind, and the report adds that it would be a serious menace to India's peace if European soldiers were withdrawn and order maintained solely by representatives of India's fighting races.

In regard to the demand for a larger proportion of Indian officers, the commission is apparently prepared to make concessions.

Another brief but important section of the report stresses the enormous importance of the integrity of the higher judiciary, who are all Europeans, among a litigation-loving people such as the Indians.

Masses And The Vote

It further states that though there may be some corruption among Indian sub-magistrates, there is little direct evidence of it. In regard to the actual details of government, the report does not commit itself in any way, except to point out that the Indian masses are completely unable to understand the idea of the vote influencing a legislative representative. Therefore, though it is fairly obvious that the commission intends to recommend some additional recognition of Indian public opinion, it is impossible to say what ingenious formula it has worked out to implement that idea while observing the above facts.

Goal Of British Policy

In the present volume the Simon Commission emphasises that the declared goal of British Indian policy was laid down in Mr. Montagu's announcement in the House of Commons on August 20, 1917. The policy of His Majesty's Government, with which the Government of India was in complete accord, is that of the increasing association of Indians in every branch of administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire.

This was characterised in the Montagu-Chelmsford report as the most momentous utterance ever made in India's chequered career. "We enter upon our task, therefore," says the report, "upon the basis and assumption that the goal defined by Mr. Montagu represents accepted policy, and that the only proposals worthy to be considered are proposals conceived in the spirit of the announcement of 1917 and inspired with the honest purpose of giving it its due effect."

The report proceeds to declare that progress in this policy can only be achieved by successive stages. The British Government and the Government of India, on whom responsibility lies for the welfare and advancement of Indian peoples, must be judges of the time and measure of each advance, and they must be guided by the co-operation received from those upon whom new opportunities of service will thus be conferred and by the extent to which it is found that confidence can be reposed in their sense of responsibility.

After full discussion of the aspects of the problem, the report concludes with an estimate of public opinion in India. The report declares that interest in politics in India is still necessarily confined to a small minority, but this is due very largely to special circumstances. Communal and sectional

feelings are nearest the surface, and it is inevitable that they should take precedence of more general political conceptions. The growth of political consciousness is, therefore, hindered not only by the tradition, which so widely prevails—that policy is a matter for the Government and not the citizens to decide—but by practical obstacles of distance and ignorance which remain to be overcome and broken down.

The report points out that in the last generation India was swayed at one and the same time by force of several conceptions which in Europe had a certain sequence. "Indian political thought finds it tempting to foreshorten history, and is unwilling to wait for the final stage of prolonged evolution. It is impatient of the doctrine of gradualness."

Equality Sought

The Commission declares that with all its variations of expression and intensity of political sentiment, which are most widespread among all educated Indians, is the expression of a demand for equality with Europeans and resentment against any suspicion of differential treatment. "While the experienced Indian member of the services will admit the benefits of the British Raj and will realise the difficulties in the way of complete self-government, while a member of a minority community, putting the safety of his community first, will stipulate for safeguards, and while the moderate may look askance at extremist methods, which he will not openly denounce, all alike are in sympathy with the demand for equal status with the European and proclaim their belief in self-determination for the Indian."

The volume concludes with the following paragraph: "The British people, so long accustomed to self-government, are bound to sympathise with this movement, even though they may deplore some of its manifestations. We are pledged to help India along her way, and constructive effort is needed. In our view, the most formidable of the evils from which India is suffering have their roots in social and economic customs of long standing, which can only be remedied by the action of the Indian peoples themselves. They are much less likely to be remedied if the blame for their continuance can be put, however unreasonably, on others. We desire to see the forces of public opinion which exist in India concentrated and strengthened for practical work. It is only when the difficulties of constructive policy are really faced that the inadequacy of general phrases begins to be realised."—Reuter.

Opinions Unanimous

In connection with the publication of the first volume of the Simon Commission's report—a bulky document of 409 pages comprising a historical survey of the position—it is understood that both reports are unanimous and do not contain a single dissenting minute.

The reason for the interval in the publication of two reports is that the first volume contains important matter vital to the understanding of the second report.

The inquiry was conducted over a period of two and a half years. The commission travelled 7,000 miles on its preliminary visit and 14,000 miles on the second visit, and its unprecedented thoroughness and unanimity should impress foreign countries, and certainly India.

Not An Individual Performance

It is emphasised that, although the report will inevitably be known as Sir John Simon's report, it is not an individual performance. The full attendance of its seven members was remarkable throughout.

An interesting paragraph says that it will be a profound error to belittle the Indian nationalist

movement. While it is true that it directly affects the hopes of a very small fraction of the people of India, none the less it concentrates all the forces roused by the appeal of national dignity and national self-consciousness.—Renter.

Our Letter From India

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Calcutta, May 14.

MAHATMA'S MESSAGE—TRADE DEPRESSION IN INDIA—LAHORE CONSPIRACY CASE ORDINANCE—CONGRESS PLANS AND MR. PATEL.

The message dictated by Mahatma Gandhi at Dandi when the rumour of his arrest was once circulated, has now been released for publication. In it he says: "I have given numerous messages. What is the use of this message, if no response has been made to so many messages? But I see from the news that the men and women of Gujarat have come out in large numbers. They have not committed any breach of the peace in Gujarat. Tried and popular servants of the people have been one by one arrested. Still the people have not been daunted and have committed civil disobedience enthusiastically in increasing numbers. If such an auspicious beginning is carried to its full conclusion, complete Swaraj is a certainty and India will have set to the whole world an example worthy of herself. Swaraj obtained without sacrifice never endures. People may, therefore, have to make endless sacrifices. In a real sacrifice there is always one-sided suffering; that is, without killing others one has to die. May India accomplish this ideal.

After I am arrested, neither the people nor my colleagues should be daunted. The conductor of this fight is God and not I. He dwells in the hearts of all. If we have faith in ourselves, God will certainly lead us. Our path is fixed. Whole villages should come forward and pick or manufacture salt. Women should picket liquor and opium shops and foreign cloth shops. In every house, young and old should begin spinning on the *lalki*. There should be bonfires of foreign cloth. Hindus should regard none as untouchable. Hindus, Mahomedans, Parsis, Christians, all should heartily embrace one another. Major communities should be satisfied with what remains after satisfying the minor communities. Students should leave Government schools and Government servants should resign and be employed in the service of the people like the brave *patels* and *talatis* who have resigned. Thus shall we easily attain complete Swaraj".

Trade Depression In India

Presiding recently at the annual meeting of the Bombay Presidency Trades Association, Mr. D. J. Wright referring to the trade depression in India said that trading conditions had been bad and there was prospect of immediate improvement. In his opinion, the present conditions were not peculiar to India alone, but all parts of the world. Referring to future progress he said there existed political, and economic difficulties, which were made worse by considerable party mistrusts and prejudices and until they were removed there was no prospect of progress. Proceeding, he declared that foreign competition and ruinous strikes had affected the textile industry badly, which he hoped would recover soon as a result of the new Tariffs, which Government should be asked to enforce immediately. In con-

clusion, he said that prosperity to mill industry meant much trade in the country and the city particularly.

Lahore Conspiracy Case Ordinance

The Governor-General has promulgated an Ordinance under which the trial of 24 accused, including Bhagat Singh and Dutt, in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, which has been proceeding before Pandit Shri Kishen, Special Magistrate, for nine months ceases, and the accused are deemed to have been committed to the sessions.

The sessions trial will take the form of three judges appointed by the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court of Judicature.

The Tribunal before whom the accused in the Lahore Conspiracy Case are to appear, will have power to take such measures, as it may think necessary, to secure the orderly conduct of the trial. Where any accused, by a voluntary act, has rendered himself incapable of appearing before the tribunal, or resists his production before it, or behaves in a persistently disorderly manner, or in any other way wilfully conducts himself to seriously prejudice the trial, then the Tribunal may, at any stage, dispense with the attendance of such accused for such period as it may think fit and proceed with the trial in his absence.

Where a plea is required in answer to a charge, from an accused whose attendance has been dispensed with, such accused will be deemed not to plead guilty. An order dispensing with the attendance of an accused shall not affect his right of being represented by a pleader at any stage of the trial. The proceedings of the Tribunal shall be final and there shall be no appeal.

Congress Plans And Mr. Patel

Mr. V. J. Patel, Ex-President of the Legislative Assembly, who arrived at Bombay last week, in an interview said: "All I can say about the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi is that the manner in which it was carried out does no credit to the British Government. To arrest a man like Mahatma Gandhi at mid-night like a thief is disgraceful.

"I should like to add that I regard the programme of boycott of British goods in general and all foreign cloth in particular as more important than any other programme of the Congress. I am of the opinion that, if Indian merchants themselves take the matter seriously, they alone can win Swaraj for India. How and in what manner they can help to bring about Swaraj is a matter which I am going to discuss with them during my stay in Bombay.

"My programme is the Congress one. We will have shortly a meeting of the All-India Working Committee, of which I am now a member, and there we shall discuss the programme to be carried out by the country. I have definite views which I am going to place before the Working Committee at Bombay or at Allahabad, wherever it will be convenient to most of the members.

"I shall be going to Gujerat to have a discussion with the workers there, but nothing definite can be said until the Working Committee meets.

"I am decidedly for provincial autonomy in respect of carrying out the Congress programme and for laying out general principles to be followed by the whole of India."

A Warning

"Gandhi will, in all probability be arrested and die behind the bars of the British prisons, a martyr of Indian people, but his blood will rise enough to drown all the Englishmen under it, before it can hope to drown the 350 millions of Indian people!"

Rev. Holmes.

The Asiatics Bill

Services Of The Agent-General

The following, by J. De V. De Beer, appears in *The Star* (Johannesburg) :—

It was a good thing for the Indian community that Sir Kurma Reddi returned from India when he did. He arrived in Capetown at the psychological moment. Had he come only a few days later the Asiatic Trading Rights Bill would most probably have passed into law. In fact it is not too much to say that but for his inter-position there was nothing to prevent the measure from being placed upon the Statute Book.

It may well be contended that Sir Kurma has succeeded in merely putting off the evil day and that the postponement of this measure is but a respectful concession by this Government to the Government of India, whom Sir Kurma Reddi so ably represents. But this can hardly be the case, because the Government viewed the Bill most seriously, and from the almost undignified manner in which they endeavoured to hurry it through all the necessary Parliamentary stages it would seem that they were determined that the restrictions it proposed to place upon Asiatic trading were immediately required. With the postponement of the Bill until the next session of Parliament the case for urgency disappears, and the matter of economic necessity only remains.

In regard to this latter question the intervention of Sir Kurma must be of great assistance to the Asiatic community, and although he may not succeed in preventing a law dealing with the curtailment of Asiatic trading rights from being passed eventually, he most probably will succeed in having the measure considerably modified. As he himself is reported to have said, the adjournment will give him and his people an opportunity of studying the Bill carefully and of preparing them to meet its proposals, and it will give the members of Parliament a chance to acquaint themselves more thoroughly with its provisions and with Indian views on the subject, thus enabling them the better to cope with the difficulty.

In this Sir Kurma has hit the nail on the head because a good deal of the legislation directed against Asiatics in the past was ill-considered for no other reason than that the rank and file of our Parliamentarians are often quite indifferent to the details of any measure affecting Asiatics. The preamble of the Bill is what really interests them and when they have read the words "Whereas it is necessary and expedient to further restrict Asiatic trading rights" or whatever else the preamble may contain they leave the rest of the Bill to the mercy of the mover.

There is no apparent malice, but it is the air of unconcern that is so disconcerting and that has so often had the effect of exposing the Indian to hardship and remorse. If Sir Kurma Reddi succeeds in shaking this form of apathy he will not only render a signal service to his countrymen, but he will also have reminded our legislators of their responsibilities towards a class of persons who may well possess ideals and aspirations worthy of careful attention.

J. DE V. DE BEER.

Asiatic Traders At Springs

Town Council's Refusal Of Application

Arising out of the application of the local Bombay Bazaar proprietors for a general dealers' certificate for erf 13, Springs, a special meeting of the Springs Town Council was held recently. It will be remembered that this application came before the Council at its last ordinary meeting, when the applicants, H. E. and A. H. Laher, were examined at length and the Council eventually decided to defer its decision.

The Council considered the question in committee, and, on coming into open Council, the Mayor (Mr. W. J. McCann) said that the Council had refused to grant the licence to the junior partner in the firm, A. H. Laher, on the grounds that he was inexperienced and incompetent. Before giving their decision in the case of the senior partner, the Mayor said the Council desired to cross-examine him on one or two questions already asked.

In reply to Councillor Brink, the senior partner (H. E. Laher) stated that when he obtained the licence for his present business on erf 70 in February last he commenced with three assistants. In reply to subsequent questions by Councillor Brink, the applicant said he commenced business with one assistant.

Councillor Brink (to applicant): Do you remember what you told me when you applied for the licence on erf 70?—Yes.

Have you got the lease signed in respect of this new business on erf 13?—Yes.

Who does the property belong to?—Mrs. Prentice.

Did you ask Mrs. Prentice to let the premises to you?—Yes, and offered £15 per month rent.

After further cross-examination, Councillor Brink moved that the application of H. E. Laher be refused on the grounds that he is not a fit and proper person to conduct business in terms of Section 6 of sub-section 3 of 1926.

The motion was carried unanimously.—*The Star*.

Sir Kurma Reddi And The Asiatics Bill

The Rand Daily Mail dated June 4 writes :—

Sir Kurma Reddi, Agent-General for India in the Union, returned yesterday afternoon from Capetown where he arrived only a few days before the close of the Parliamentary Session, but in time to intervene successfully in connection with the Asiatic Trading Rights Bill.

Among those to greet Sir Kurma and his son (Mr. V. G. Kurma) and Mr. C. S. Ricketts (his secretary) at the station were a number of representatives of the Transvaal Indian Congress, including Messrs. P. K. Desai (Secretary), Medh, E. Mall, M. D. Desai and the Rev. Sigamoney.

Questioned regarding the Bill which has aroused so much concern among Indians, Sir Kurma Reddi said Indians were immensely thankful to the Government for postponing the measure.

"It was good for us, because it gave us an opportunity of studying the Bill carefully and therefore preparing to meet the proposals," he said. "It was good, too, I think, for the members of Parliament, for very few of them had been able to understand its terms in the short time that was given them."

There is now time for all of us to consider it carefully. We asked for time, and the Minister of the Interior has very kindly put it back till next session."

And about next year—what did he think of the prospects?

"What can we say about that—except that I am always an optimist," replied Sir Kurma.

"I can never believe," he went on, "that the Parliament of the Union of South Africa will ever enact anything so unfair and unjust. Once they understand the implications of this Bill in its entirety, I am confident that Parliament will eventually pass a measure that will be acceptable to all."

Question Of Evasions

In the course of an interview with a representative of the *Star* Sir Kurma Reddi said:—

"Any evasions of the existing law can certainly be prevented by provisions which would make such evasions impossible in the future. But the introduction of new laws, tightening up the grip on Indians, is unjust and uncalled for. Indeed, any alteration in the law contrary to judicial decisions is unmerited, and there is positively no reason why new principles should be introduced in the laws of this country, which are already too hard upon Indians."

Although now quite recovered in health, Sir Kurma admitted that the strain of office at present was "rather heavy," but he hoped he would have strength enough to carry out his duties.

News Of Independence Struggle In India

Four Hindus Sentenced To Death

Sholapur, Saturday.—Four Hindus have been sentenced to death for the murder of two Moslem policemen during the recent riots.

Arrest Of Congress Leaders

Three hundred police, armed with lathis, and 50 with firearms, under 30 European police officers, surrounded Congress headquarters for the third raid since the civil disobedience campaign was launched. Six members of the War Council of the Congress Committee were arrested, including the president, Jomni. Documents were seized, including a Congress bulletin which was published despite the ban placed on its publication.

New War Council

Bombay, Sunday.—A secret meeting of the Bombay Congress Committee has appointed a new War Council, replacing the eight officers who were taken into custody following yesterday's police raid on Congress headquarters.

Swarajists Sentenced

The ten members of the Bombay Congress Committee, who were arrested in the raid on the Congress headquarters on Friday, including Patel, nephew of the ex-president of the Legislative Assembly, and Mukund Malaviya, son of Pandit Malaviya, the well-known Hindu leader, have been sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment, says a Reuter's cable from Bombay.

An Uncalled For Campaign

Shaukat Ali, who was one of Gandhi's right-hand men in 1921 in the non-cooperation movement, in a speech at Bombay, condemned Gandhi's campaign as uncalled for, untimely and ill-conceived. He said it had raised a wall between Hindus and Moslems. Shaukat Ali added that Congressmen had up to the present failed to make an

impression on the Government, and were now directing their efforts to drag in the Moslems. He gave an assurance that the Congressmen would soon be disillusioned.—Reuter.

Moslems Support Gandhi

Bombay, Wednesday.—An enormous meeting of Moslems passed a resolution supporting the Gandhi campaign and appealing to Moslems throughout India to take part in the civil disobedience movement and boycott British goods.

The resolution stated that as long as the Congress Party and the Moslem Council did not participate in the round-table conference, no Moslem should attend it as a representative of the Moslem community.

Worli Riots

The riots at the Worli detention camp yesterday began in the morning, when 1,000 volunteers who had been arrested on charges under the Salt Act protested against the King's birthday celebrations. The volunteers hoisted black flags over their quarters, and, wearing black bands, paraded the camp shouting revolutionary slogans.

This attracted large crowds and led to the disturbances in which 88 persons, including two women, one of whom had a leg broken, were injured.

Rioting At Midnapore

Calcutta, Sunday.—One police officer is reported to be dead and two missing as a result of a serious riot at Ghoenaghat in the district of Midnapore on June 3, when villagers are reported to have attacked a party of police and removed their uniforms and arms.

It is understood that 17 persons were injured at Balisali, in the same district, on June 6. The police, after a fruitless charge, in which they used their lathis, fired on 1,500 volunteers who were attempting to manufacture salt.

The Inspector-General of Police in Bengal has left for Midnapore with reinforcements owing to the seriousness of the situation in the district.—Reuter.

European Shops Picketted

Bombay, Friday.—Picketing of European shops has been started in the Fort area by volunteers wearing khaki shirts, shorts and Gandhi caps.

The volunteers are urging Indians not to enter the area, but are not interfering with Europeans. One of the outfitters has supplied the pickets with stools.

Boycott Campaign In The Villages

Simla, Tuesday.—A Gazette Extraordinary notifies the application of the Viceroy's ordinances in regard to the prevention of intimidation and the unlawful instigation of the non-payment of taxes to Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and the North West Frontier province; and the application of the former Ordinance to the Punjab.

At Bombay the Congress has appealed to half a million volunteers to carry the boycott of British goods movement into the villages throughout India.

A public meeting was held to celebrate the so-called victory of the Satyagrahis at Wadala salt depot on Sunday. The speakers appealed to the volunteers to enlist in defiance of the Viceroy's new ordinances.

British Woman's Protest In Bombay

Calcutta, Monday.—Miss Ida Diokidson, a prominent Bombay social worker, has resigned from the Bombay Legislative Council "as a protest against the Government's repressive measures."

She has refused to accept the Kaiser-i-Hind medal awarded her in the last birthday honours.—Reuter.

Court-Martial Report

Abbottabad, Sunday.—The court-martial of members of the Royal Garwhali Regiment who refused to obey

orders has concluded. The court will send its recommendations to the officer in charge of the Northern Command for final orders, which will be announced by Army Headquarters.

It is understood that 43 riflemen of the same company are in the lock-up on a similar charge.—Reuter.

Release Of Mrs. Frere

Captain and Mrs. Frere and Major Farley, the two Indian officers who were kidnapped on the frontier in Baluchistan, were released through the intervention of the Afghan authorities, says the Calcutta correspondent of *The Star*.

Mr. Tyson's Statement To The Select Committee

(Continued from last week)

9. If the Indian does not keep pace with the Transvaal European in mere numbers—and on that point I may remark that apart from immigrants there will always be an influx of Europeans into the Transvaal from other Provinces quite apart from the natural increase. The figures I give in paragraph 4 of my statement show how the European population is going up by leaps and bounds—it is also true that, with one important exception, he habitually competes with him economically. Annexure No. 2 to this statement shows the occupations of Europeans and Indians in the Transvaal as disclosed by the census of 1921. From this table it is clear that the Indian seriously competes with the European in one field alone—that covered by the head "Commercial." The Indian community in the Transvaal is definitely a trading community. Ruin their trade and you ruin the Transvaal Indian community completely and irremediably.

10. The Indian trader in the Transvaal has not shown much enterprise in going outside a well-defined range of business. He specialises in groceries, soft goods, and the distribution of fruit and vegetables. In these lines he has generations of training behind him and it is generally admitted that he shows special aptitude for them. To the rural community he has a peculiar economic value in that, being content with a small turnover, he can afford to establish small stores in isolated districts where the custom would not support a white man; he is also more accommodating in his dealings with the farmer than are his rivals of other races, giving longer credit in times of scarcity, and regarding trade as an end in itself and not as a means of foreclosing on his customer's land. In the Transvaal he cannot take possession of the land, but I do not think Indian traders in other parts of the Union have shown any tendency to foreclose on their customers' land. In the large towns, while scarcely competing at all with the better class of European shop, the Indian store, it is submitted, is a real boon to the poorer class of housewife among the Europeans, to the Indian, the coloured man and the native. The Indian vegetable-dealer performs a service alike to the European householder to whose door he brings his produce and to the European market-gardener for whom he plays the part of a distributor. If the Indian dealer did not fill a want among the poorer elements of the European community, the prejudices which his colour excites would long ago have ensured his elimination. We find, on the contrary, that such attempts at boycott as have been made have invariably broken down.

11. The comparative success which, in spite of many disabilities, the Indian trader often achieves is sometimes attributed to what is called "unfair competition." To a rival trader any successful competition is liable to appear "unfair," but competition is not of itself an evil. I am sorry to have to utter that platitide but in view of the evidence given by some witnesses it is necessary. If it be true that by cutting down overhead charges the Indian is able to undersell his white competitor, the result, as has been pointed out to the Committee, is the purveying of the necessities of life at a price which enables the poorer "whites" to maintain a western standard of living. And if the competition is in fact unfair, it must not be forgotten that the enactment of the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1924 and of the Wages Act of 1925 have given Government a power which they have not been slow to use for the check of such evils as the underpaying of assistants. A recent recommendation of the Wages Board, accepted by Government and given the force of law in a large number of urban areas throughout the Union, fixes wage minima for shop assistants at what Indians regard as a "European level." "Living in" by assistants in stores can also, if found objectionable, be prevented by legislation applying to all races. So far as the complaint goes that the Indian occupies poor premises, where this is a fact (and it is not universally so) the poverty of the premises reacts, as Sir Benjamin Robertson pointed out, on the class of custom attracted; moreover, the fault here lies less with the Indian himself than with the legal system which denies him security in the site on which his premises are erected. If you do not let the Indian own the site on which he carries on business, or if his lease is to be a precarious matter, you cannot expect him to put up a Woolworth Building.

12. Apart from the merits and demerits of the Indian trader, there is the question whether as a fact he is encroaching even in this, his one large sphere of activity in the Transvaal. In view of the fantastic statements commonly made regarding the numerical strength and the "infiltration" of the Indian trading community, it will be as well at the outset to emphasise the fact that the whole number of Indians, male and female, engaged in "commercial" pursuits in the Transvaal in 1921 was 4,324 (see Annexure No. 2). This number includes hawkers and pedlars, of whom there were 686 in Johannesburg alone, and hundreds of assistants in shops. It covers cases also where there are several partners in respect of one shop.

13. It is not known whether any figures have been submitted to the Committee to show that in the Province as a whole or in any particular areas Indian traders are increasing in numbers. (This was written by me a few days ago and since then some figures have been supplied to the Committee. I would like to refer to them at the end of my statement.) No considerable increase in the Province as a whole would seem to be possible, since the rise in the census figures for Indians in the period 1911-1921, small as it is, is largely accounted for by the increase under the head of females—either by birth in the Transvaal or by introduction from elsewhere as wives. Even if there were no other factors at work any considerable expansion of Indian trade would be hampered by lack of an adequate supply of Indian assistants. The issue of new licences has been since 1926 controlled, under the Transvaal General Dealers' (Control) Ordinance, by bodies not notable for their partiality to the Asiatic applicant. The Indian has been hampered again, by the restrictions imposed by the Gold Law, the

Townships Act and the anti-Asiatic clauses in the leases of private townships. With all these disadvantages it is not surprising to find that comparative figures, so far as they are available, show a diminution rather than an increase in the number of Indians trading in the Province.

14. It has not been possible in the course of a stay of under three weeks in the Union to collect comprehensive figures to show, for the Province as a whole, whether or not the Indian is supplanting the European as a trader. As was remarked by Sir Benjamin Robertson in 1921—"Even if the number of shops were known, it would convey no idea of the volume of trade," and he went on to point out that many Indian shops are "pretty concerns." Figures showing the volume of trade as between Indian and European firms are not available, and all that has been possible in the time is to obtain up-to-date figures, for purposes of comparison, where previous figures were available from sources like the Report of the Asiatic Inquiry Commission, or where statements have already been made to the Committee. Apart from this, no attempt has been made to select special areas or townships for investigation. What I mean to convey is, that in the few figures I have submitted I have not gone round to places like Balfour. I understand that in Balfour, since the General Dealers' Control Ordinance came into force, they have got rid of every Indian shop. Balfour does not figure in my list. What I did was to look through the Report of the Asiatic Inquiry Commission, and to take the figures in that, which I assumed to be authentic figures; and then certain figures were mentioned by witnesses, and I tried to get comparative figures. The Committee had the figures before it from the Municipal witnesses and those figures were from places that made the position very bad from the point of view of Asiatic encroachment, and they are not the places I would have looked to if I had been wishing to make out the other side of the case. I took these figures from the report of the Asiatic Inquiry Commission and also the figures obtained from the Revenue Department. I have not put up special figures to support the case one way or the other.

(To be Continued)

Insects And Disease

(By Dr. F. G. CAWSTON)

The following brief extracts are taken from a lecture on Disease Prevention recently delivered by Dr. F. G. Cawston, M.D., to the students at the Sastri College in Durban:—

Wherever dwelling houses are troubled by the visits of insects or animals, it is clear that these pests have access to food. The invasion of wooden floors or ceilings with bugs or the breeding of these insects in mattresses indicates that the wood-work or the mattress had better be destroyed by burning; but the insects may successfully be destroyed by paraffin which is also probably the most practical means of getting rid of ticks in the hair, provided one is careful not to allow the paraffin to catch alight. Flies are attracted to any home where they can find food left uncovered, and a good way to discourage their visit is to starve them.

Mosquitoes will breed in any small collection of water that is left unchanged for a few days and they carry the infection of fevers such as Malaria, Dengue and Elephantiasis. The grass ticks cause somewhat

similar fevers in cattle and caused the death of all humped oxen that were once common at Durban.

The hookworms bore their way through the skin of those who wade in rivers and find their way to the bowel where they cause the patient to become pale through loss of the blood they suck. Those kinds which attack our dogs and cats sometimes find their way into the unprotected skin of children who walk bare-footed under trees or sit in garden soil. The aimless wandering of the worm under the human skin gives rise to a condition known as Sandworm Disease which can be cured only by prolonged freezing. The larger worms that are found in young people's stomachs are the result of eating insufficiently washed vegetables, just as insufficiently cooked meat may result in a person becoming infected with the Tape-worm.

WOMEN'S WRONGS

THEY DO NOT HAVE A FAIR CHANCE

"Thank Goodness I wasn't born a woman," was the well-known saying of a great surgeon. For a woman's health handicaps her, almost always. She has pains and disabilities which do not affect men. Nature does not give her a fair chance. Her blood is more often thinner and poorer than a man's, and she usually neglects the first beginnings of ill-health.

Many of the fair sex who seemed destined to a life of frequent suffering have been freed entirely from their ailments through the wonderful blood-making properties of Dr. Williams' pink pills. Women make too light of their troubles. Many a housewife toils all day with a pain in her back and side, and a burning headache, and a sense of having no spine left.

What a pity that more women will not listen to their friends whom Dr. Williams' pink pills have saved from this misery! These pills ought to be taken in the first years of womanhood; they may make all the difference to the health of a lifetime. But whenever a woman suffers they will help her—in youth, middle-age, and after.

All women should take advantage of the wonderful help of Dr. Williams' pink pills. Every dealer sells them, or direct from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., P.O. Box 604, Cape Town; 3s. 3d. for one bottle, or six for 18s., post free.

TENDERS are called for the purchase and removal of an old Brick residence situate at 554 on the lower side of Essewood Road, and adjoining Maris Stella Convent.

Tenders must be lodged with the undersigned before Saturday the 28th inst., and from whom full particulars can be obtained.

E. H. POYNTON,

SOLICITOR.

373, Smith Street,
or P.O. Box 126,
Durban.